



They are often seen flying around lights at night. The female lays eggs in plant stems, producing one generation per year. The pupal stage lives under stones and plants along the shore.

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **predaceous diving beetle**

representative species

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Kingdom:         | Animalia   |
| Division/Phylum: | Arthropoda |
| Class:           | Insecta    |
| Order:           | Coleoptera |
| Family:          | Dytiscidae |

### **Features**

Predaceous diving beetles undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The slender larva, called a water tiger, has mouthparts that allow it to puncture prey and suck out fluids. It ranges from one-fourth to three inches long. It breathes through the body surface and through two spiracles on the tail. The adult has front wings which are hard and meet in a straight line down the middle of the back when not in flight. The hind wings are membranous (thin, pliable) and folded under the front wings when not in flight. The black, brown, or yellow body is elongate, oval, and streamlined. The hind legs are flattened and fringed with hairs. Antennae are threadlike. Adults often are longer than one inch.

### **Natural History**

Predaceous diving beetles live in still water in ponds, lakes, and streams. The adult and larva are aggressive and cannibalistic, eating prey items as large as small fish. The adults move their legs in unison when swimming and surface for air tail-first.